



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/027,154	12/20/2001	Timothy G.J. Ehr	29985/01-028	1216
57726 7590 06/22/2007 MILLER, MATTHIAS & HULL ONE NORTH FRANKLIN STREET SUITE 2350 CHICAGO, IL 60606			EXAMINER FOREMAN, JONATHAN M	
			ART UNIT 3736	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/22/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/027,154

Applicant(s)

EHR ET AL.

Examiner

Jonathan ML Foreman

Art Unit

3736

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2007 and 13 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10,13,14,16 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10,13,14,16 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/4/07 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 10, 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,168,703 to Kenigsberg in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0049402 to Peacock, III et al.

In regards to claims 10, 13 and 16, Kenigsberg discloses an elongated tube (22) including an opening and a closed distal end (Col. 3, lines 22 – 24), the tube being received in a tubular sheath (Col. 3, lines 18 – 20), the tubular sheath (12) having at least two spaced apart openings (20) in a sidewall thereof, the tube being slidable within the sheath to allow the opening of the tube to be aligned with the openings of the sheath (Col. 4, lines 57 – 64), the proximal end of the elongated tube is disposed outside of the proximal end of the sheath, the elongated tube comprises two markings (28), one of the markings being aligned with the proximal end of the tubular sheath when

Art Unit: 3736

the opening of the elongated tube is aligned with one of the openings of the tubular sheath, the other of the markings being aligned with the proximal end of the tubular sheath when the opening of the elongated tube is aligned with the other opening of the sheath (Col. 3, lines 41 – 56), the proximal end of the elongated tube is connected to a pressure transducer (Col. 3, lines 24 - 27).

The tubular sheath has an inside peripheral surface and the elongated tube has an outside peripheral surface, the elongated tube is frictionally received in the tubular sheath (Col. 3, lines 18 –20). In order for the device to perform, fluid communication through the tubular sheath between the inside surface of the tubular sheath and the outside surface of the elongated tube must be prevented.

Otherwise, pressure readings would not be obtainable at the multiple sheath openings (20; Col. 4, lines 56 – 65). A distal portion of the blood pressure measuring device capable of being inserted into a vascular structure has an exterior surface having a cross-sectional profile of a single circle (Col. 3, lines 61 – 65; Col. 4, lines 9 - 12). Kenigsberg discloses the tubular sheath as preferably having an open distal end (Col. 2, line 60) and fails to disclose the distal end being closed. However,

Kenigsberg teaches that elongated tube (22) as well as tubular members (32, 38) could have an open distal end or a closed distal end with an opening adjacent thereto (Col. 3, lines 22 – 24; Col. 3, line 67 – Col. 4, line 2; Col. 4, lines 15 – 19). Additionally, Kenigsberg teaches that it is desirable to keep the elongated tube (22) from extending past the distal end of sheath (Col. 3, lines 28 – 31). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the open distal end of the tubular sheath as disclosed by Kenigsberg to be a closed distal end with an opening adjacent thereto in that Kenigsberg discloses the two configurations as being equivalent and therefore interchangeable. Additionally, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the open distal end of the tubular sheath as disclosed by Kenigsberg to be a closed distal end in order to keep the elongated tube (22) from extending past

Art Unit: 3736

the distal end of the sheath. Furthermore, disclosed examples and preferred embodiments do not constitute a teaching away from a broader disclosure or nonpreferred embodiments. In re Susi, 440 F.2d 442, 169 USPQ 423 (CCPA 1971). In the present case, Kenigsberg discloses the distal end “preferably open”, but does not teach away from a closed distal end having an opening adjacent thereto. Kenigsberg discloses a distal portion of the blood pressure measuring device having an exterior surface having a cross-sectional profile of a single circle (Col. 3, lines 61 – 65; Col. 4, lines 9 - 12), but fails to specifically disclose the entire outside peripheral surface of the elongated tube engaging the inside peripheral surface of the tubular sheath. Peacock, III et al. teach a tubular sheath having multiple lumens positioned within the sidewall of the sheath in order to maintain an outer cross-section and inner cross-section of a single cylinder (Figure 1B). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device as disclosed by Kenigsberg by forming a lumen in the sidewall of the tubular sheath (12) in order to form the member (32) so as to maintain free movement of the elongated tube (22) within the sheath (12) while preventing fluid communication between the inside surface of the tubular sheath and the outside surface of the elongated tube.

4. Claims 14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent U.S. Patent No. 4,168,703 to Kenigsberg in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0049402 to Peacock, III et al. as applied to claims 13 and 16 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,259,938 to Zarychta et al.

In regards to claims 14 and 19, Kenigsberg in view of Peacock, III et al. fails to disclose the sheath of the pressure monitoring device comprising a radiopaque marker at a distal end thereof. However, Zarychta et al. discloses a pressure monitoring device having comprising a sheath having a radiopaque marker at a distal end thereof (Col. 4, lines 35 – 38). It would have been obvious to one

Art Unit: 3736

having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the sheath as disclosed by Kenigsberg in view of Peacock, III et al. to include a radiopaque marker at a distal end as taught by Zarychta et al. in order to facilitate positioning of the sheath within the patient (Col. 4, lines 31 – 33).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 6/4/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant asserts only two possible configurations for placing the member (32) within the tubular sheath (12), and that each of these configurations would lead the device being inoperable. However, the Examiner asserts that a third configuration, one where a lumen is formed in the sidewall of the sheath as taught by Peacock, III et al., would be an obvious modification to the device as disclosed by Kenigsberg which would lead to operability of the device as well as the outside peripheral surface of the elongated tube engaging the inside peripheral surface of the tubular sheath.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan ML Foreman whose telephone number is (571)272-4724. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on (571)272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3736

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



JMLF



MARK E. WINDENBURG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700